



Mullen Public Schools

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May 23, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commission members:

As superintendent of the Mullen Public School system, I would like to express my concerns regarding the lack of local channel availability as the community of Mullen transitions from a community current served by cable television to one that will be exclusively served by satellite service. I believe the definition of "local" stations, as put forth by the satellite companies and the FCC is misleading to many of the households in town. Local channels should not mean stations that are across state lines, 250+ miles away and do not broadcast regional, much less local news, weather, or emergency information.

The school district currently uses a website called "WeatherThreat" to notify our patrons of school closings and emergency situations at school. Once our information is uploaded to the WeatherThreat site, it almost instantaneously appears on our true local channel of KNOP-TV, out of North Platte. In addition, this station, as well as KDUH-TV will run feature stories on our athletics, student accomplishments and other local stories. In addition, our current cable service provides Nebraska Public Television to each participating household.

Without the availability of local news stations like North Platte, Mullen residents will not have access to vital information such as school related announcements, weather warnings, or any pertinent news from our area. I believe that the residents of Mullen should have access to local channels broadcast from North Platte as allowed by the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA).

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jeff Hoelsing

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